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**RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF MALLING**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

on the

**Health of the Malling  
District**

**for the year 1952**

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By the

Medical Officer of Health

**DR. P. JACOB GAFFIKIN**

and

Senior Sanitary Inspector

**H. C. COLDRICK**

# PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

## Medical Officer of Health:

N. HAY BOLTON, M.D., CH.B., D.T.M. & H., F.R.C.S.  
(Retired 31/12/52) (Edin.)

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.  
(Commenced 1/1/53)

**Senior Sanitary Inspector and Sanitary Surveyor:**  
H. C. COLDRICK, M.S.I.A.

**Additional Sanitary Inspectors:**  
W. C. E. KEUTENIUS, M.S.I.A.  
R. MARSDIN, C.R.S.I.

**Cleansing Officer:**  
A. J. WELLER, M.I.T.A.

**Housing Inspector:**  
R. SOUTER.

**Clerks:**  
R. M. CRIPPS  
(Senior Sanitary Inspector's Clerk)

E. D. DAY  
(Medical Officer's Clerk)  
(Resigned 23/5/52)

G. T. DODGE  
(General Clerk)

F. P. GREEN  
(Cleansing Officer's Clerk)

R. W. WELLARD  
(Medical Officer's Clerk)  
(Commenced 8/9/52)

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Area of District (in acres) ... ..	45,655
Registrar-General's estimate of Mid-Year Home Population ... ..	37,070
Average density of persons per acre ... ..	0.81
Average density of persons per square mile ...	519
Number of inhabited dwellings (end 1952) accord- ing to Rate Books—computed ... ..	10,194
Average density of dwellings ... .. 1 per 4.48 acres	
Average number of persons per dwelling inhabited	3.64
Rateable Value (for 1951/52) ... ..	£204,961
Rateable Value (for 1952/53) ... ..	£214,626
Sum represented by a penny rate (for 1951/52)	£875
Sum represented by a penny rate (for 1952/53) (Estimated) ... ..	£885



Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
High Street,  
West Malling, Kent.  
1st July, 1953.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Malling Rural District Council.**

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report on the health of the area for the year ended 31st December, 1952. This report covers the work of your Public Health Department whilst Dr. N. Hay Bolton was your Medical Officer of Health and his retirement as from 31st December, 1952, leaves me, as his successor in office, to present such to you.

The Report has been prepared, as indicated in Ministry of Health circular 2/53, dated 22nd January, 1953, on the lines of that for 1951. Attention is drawn to the fact that excessive importance should not be attached to rates which may be based on very small numbers, e.g., less than 10. It is suggested that the actual numbers should be shown and attention drawn to the fact that comparisons with other areas or with earlier years may have little statistical significance.

**Population:** The Registrar-General's estimate of the Mid-Year Home Population of 37,070 is an increase of 560 over that for 1951. The excess of births over deaths for the year was 218.

**Vital Statistics:** The Death Rate of 10·87 is lower than that for either of the two previous years (1951—12·08 and 1950—11·67). Heart Diseases, Malignant Neoplasms (Cancer), and Respiratory Diseases remain the numerical chief causes of death. Deaths of infants under 1 year of age accounted for 4·71% of the total deaths and 70·97% of those who died during the year were aged 65 and over.

The Birth Rate of 16·75 again shows a rise over that for the previous twelve months and is the highest rate since 1948. Of the total number of births (live and still) 5·07% were illegitimate. There was one maternal death during the year, giving a rate of 1·58. The Infantile Mortality Rate of 30·60 was lower than that for the previous year but this rate has shown a tendency for considerable fluctuation in the past few years.

The Registrar-General has again supplied Area Comparability Factors for adjusting the birth and death rates for securing comparison with rates in other districts or those for England and Wales. (See note on page 3 for fuller explanation).



**Infectious and Notifiable Diseases:** No notification was received or death recorded from Diphtheria. This is the fifth successive year that such has been the gratifying position. However, the Ministry of Health in Circular 8/53, dated 20th March, 1953, draws attention to the fact that "diphtheria still kills" and that elimination of this disease is conditional upon the maintenance of an adequate level of immunisation. If parents leave their children unprotected there may be a return of diphtheria outbreaks.

With the exception of Measles the notification rates of other diseases for the year have generally followed the pattern of those for England and Wales. The notification rate for Measles was 12.14 compared with the provisional figure for the Country of 8.86. There were no deaths from the disease. Approximately 39% of the notifications received related to children under the age of 5 years; and approximately 57% between the ages of 5 to 9 years. There was no great difference in the number of males notified as suffering from this disease compared with those for females.

Notification of cases of Scarlet Fever was greater at 48 than for the previous twelve months when 13 cases were notified but so far as I am aware this illness was of a mild type without complications.

**Staff:** Details of the Staff of the Public Health Department are recorded on the inside front cover page.

**Laboratory Facilities:** There has been no change in the arrangements during 1952 whereby the County Pathologist or County Analyst at County Hall, Maidstone, according to examination required, have carried out this work. These arrangements have proved to be quite satisfactory.

**Ambulance Facilities: Nursing in the Home: Maternity and Child Welfare: Child Life Protection: School Health Services:** The Kent County Council is the responsible authority for the administration of these services, in this district.

**National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47:** No formal action was taken during the year under Section 47 of this Act for the removal of aged and infirm persons. 14 visits were made to aged people for investigation of their living conditions.

In two cases arrangements were made for the voluntary admission of the aged person to an institution although in one case the person concerned returned home after a short stay. In one other case it was necessary to require the Home Help to effect more efficient cleansing of the cottage concerned.

**Mortuaries:** The three mortuaries provided by the Council and situated at Aylesford, Borough Green and West Malling continued in use during the year. They are available for use at any time and the Police are provided with keys. There is also a mortuary at Snodland provided by the Parish Council.

**Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936:** No statutory action was taken under these Regulations during the year but a check was made in three cases and in each of these it was found that the patient had ceased to work. Attention was drawn to the need for the patient to be certified as non-infectious before recommencing work.

**Statistical Data:** Appendix A which follows contains the various tables recording vital statistics, incidence of infectious diseases, etc.

**Note:** The adjusted Birth and Death Rates are obtained by multiplying the Crude Rates in each case by the Area Comparability Factors which have been supplied by the Registrar-General. These allow for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas. When local crude birth and death rates have been so adjusted they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.



# APPENDIX "A"

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:					Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	310	280	590
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	22	9	31
Total Live Births	...	...	...	...	332	289	621
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated Mid-Year Home population	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.75 (crude)

Adjusted Birth Rate (comparability factor of 1.00 supplied by the Registrar-General—see note under Statistical Data for explanation) 16.75  
(adjusted)

### Still Births:

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	5	4	9
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
Total Still Births	...	...	...	...	5	5	10
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	15.85

### Deaths:

Total (Male 210, Female 193)	...	...	...	...	...	...	403
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated Mid-Year Home population	...	...	...	...	...	...	10.87 (crude)

Adjusted Death Rate (comparability factor of 0.94 supplied by the Registrar-General—see note under Statistical Data for explanation) 10.32  
(adjusted)

### Deaths from puerperal causes—

Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.58

### Death Rate of Infants under One Year of Age:

Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age (Male 13, Female 6)	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Rate—All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	30.60
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	30.51
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	...	...	...	32.26
Number of Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age (Male 6, Female 6)	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Deaths from: Malignant neoplasms (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Diphtheria (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

**COMPARATIVE TABLE SHOWING BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE  
AND INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.**

Year	* per 1,000 estimated Home Population				per 1,000 total live & still births	per 1,000 live births
	Live Birth Rate		Death Rate		Still Birth Rate	Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age
	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate	Crude Rate	Adjusted Rate		
Malling R.D. 1948	17.97	—	12.36	—	27.03	32.68
1949	16.53	—	10.35	9.63	13.31	17.64
1950	14.62	14.62	11.67	10.97	19.19	21.53
1951	15.53	15.53	12.08	11.36	13.91	31.75
1952	16.75	16.75	10.87	10.22	15.85	30.60
England and Wales 1952 (Provisional)	15.3		11.3		22.6	27.6†

\* Year 1948 rates per 1,000 estimated resident population and for 1949 rates for 1,000 estimated civilian resident population.  
 ‡ Per 1,000 related live births.

**CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASE.**

The following table shows the number of cases in which bedding was steam disinfected and one or more rooms fumigated:—

Work Carried Out	Tuber- culosis	Pemphigus	Scarlet Fever	Can cer	Poliomyeli- tis	Miscellaneous
Fumigation of Rooms and Disinfection of Bedding	9	—	3	1	1	—
Fumigation of Rooms only	3	—	5	—	—	6
Disinfection of Bedding only	1	1	—	—	—	1

**Food Poisoning:** The table given below is of food poisoning notifications which were received and investigated and returned to the Registrar General:—

1st Quarter		2nd Quarter		3rd Quarter		4th Quarter		Total	
M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
2	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	2

**Outbreaks due to identified agents:**

Total Outbreaks: 1 (Salmonella Aertrycke). Total Cases: 2.

**Outbreaks of undiscovered cause:**

Total Outbreaks: Nil.

Total Cases: Nil.

**Single Cases:**

Agent identified: 3 (Salmonella Typhi-murium 2, B. Aertrycke 1).

Unknown Cause: Nil.

Total Cases: 3.

There were no deaths from food poisoning during the year.



**Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox.** The Kent County Council is responsible for the provision in this district of facilities for immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against smallpox and the following information has been received from the County Medical Officer (Dr. A. Elliott), concerning such during the year 1952.

	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—9	10—14	Total under 15 years
No. of Children resident in the Rural District of Malling who were immunised against diphtheria during the year ended 31st December, 1952.	53	324	31	16	8	51	9	492
(i) Primary Inoculations	—	—	—	—	2	349	62	413
(ii) Reinforcing Inoculations								
No. of children resident in the Rural District of Malling under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1952, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1938).	53	368	406	481	491	1676	1025	4500
No. of persons resident in the Rural District of Malling who were vaccinated against smallpox during the year ended 31st December, 1952.								
(i) Number Vaccinated	204		155			9		11
(ii) Number Re-Vaccinated.	—		6			15		76
								379
								97

The following table relates to the incidence of Notifiable Disease according to disease, sex, and age groups:—

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles (excluding Rubella)		Diphtheria	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-paralytic		M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4	5	—	—
1—2	2	1	3	6	—	—	—	—	29	41	—	—
3—4	5	3	3	2	—	—	—	—	43	53	—	—
5—9	20	14	5	7	—	—	—	—	138	120	—	—
10—14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	8	—	—
15—24	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	27	21	12	19	—	—	—	1	221	229	—	—
	48		31		—		1		450		—	
Quarter ending												
31-3-52	2	7	1	8	—	—	—	—	46	42	—	—
30-6-52	2	1	5	4	—	—	—	—	72	70	—	—
30-9-52	7	4	4	4	—	—	—	1	63	78	—	—
31-12-52	16	9	2	3	—	—	—	—	40	39	—	—

  

	Acute Pneumonia		Dysentery		Smallpox		Acute encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	Infective		Post Infectious		M	F
Under 5	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—44	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—64	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	7	7	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
	10		10		—		1		—		—	
Quarter ending												
31-3-52	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
30-6-52	2	2	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-9-52	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31-12-52	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

  

	Para-Typhoid Fevers		Erysipelas		Meningococcal Infection		Food Poisoning		Puerperal pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	F	M	F
Under 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
5—14	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
15—44	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	3	—	—
45—64	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	—	1	4	1	—	3	2	3	3	—
	—		5		1		5		3	3	
Quarter ending											
31-3-52	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	—	2	—
30-6-52	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
30-9-52	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
31-12-52	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—



The table given below is inserted for comparison with the Death and Notification rates for England and Wales with those for Malling Rural District for 1952 and five previous years:—

	England and Wales (provisional 1952)	Malling Rural District				
		1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
		(Resident)				
Rates per 1,000 population (Home)						
DEATHS—						
All causes	11.3	10.87	12.08	11.67	10.35	12.36
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.03
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.22x	0.38x	0.43x	0.58x	0.68x
Influenza	0.04	0.03	0.19	0.20	0.09	0.00
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.47	0.46	0.58	0.49	0.50	0.35
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)—						
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.03
Scarlet Fever	1.53	1.29	0.36	0.63	0.32	0.32
Whooping Cough	2.61	0.84	7.61	1.12	0.99	6.40
Diphtheria	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.13	0.30	0.09	0.09	0.09
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.86	12.14	17.06	4.41	13.87	7.46
Pneumonia	0.72	0.27	0.22	0.26	0.50	0.35
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.06	0.00	0.05	0.11	0.06	0.03
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Non-Paralytic)	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.06	0.18
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.29	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00
Acute Encephalitis	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.97	0.97	1.42	1.06	1.31	1.61
Respiratory Other Forms	0.05	0.05	0.27	0.37	0.12	0.59

O—Cerebro-spinal Fever.

x—Respiratory and Other Forms.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

The table set out below records in age groups the new cases recorded in the register during the year, together with the number of deaths which occurred.

Age Periods (Years)	New Cases*				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5—14	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
15—24	4	3	...	...	...	1	...	...
25—34	5	2	...	...	1	...	...	...
35—44	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45—54	6	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
55—64	4	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and over	2	1	...	...	1	2	...	...
Age Unknown	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	27	9	1	1	5	3	...	...
	36		2		8		...	
	38				8			
March Quarter	8	3	...	...	4	1	...	...
June Quarter	11	2	...	...	...	1	...	...
September Quarter	5	2	1	1	...	...	...	...
December Quarter	3	2	...	...	1	1	...	...

\* Related to Primary Notifications received under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930 or 1952.

Number of deaths from Tuberculosis of persons who had not been notified as suffering from that disease (1M: 1F)—2=25%.



The following table shows the number of deaths from all causes during the year with Rates per 1,000 Estimated Home Population:—

R.G.'s list No.	Cause of Death	Number of Deaths			Rates per 1,000 Estimated Home Population	
		M	F	Total	1952	1951
1	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	5	3	8	0.22	0.33
2	Tuberculosis—other	...	...	...	0.00	0.05
3	Syphilitic disease	1	...	1	0.03	0.08
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
5	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0.00	0.03
6	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	...	0.00	0.00
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	0.00	0.03
8	Measles	...	...	...	0.00	0.05
9	Other infective and Parasitic diseases	...	1	1	0.03	0.00
10	Malignant Neoplasm—stomach	3	1	4	0.11	0.36
11	Malignant Neoplasm — lung, bronchus	7	4	11	0.30	0.30
12	Malignant Neoplasm—breast	...	6	6	0.16	0.19
13	Malignant Neoplasm—uterus	...	7	7	0.19	0.05
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	19	11	30	0.81	0.74
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	2	5	0.13	0.03
16	Diabetes	1	1	2	0.05	0.05
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	24	32	56	1.51	1.65
18	Coronary disease, angina	25	20	45	1.21	1.07
19	Hypertension with Heart disease	5	3	8	0.22	0.38
20	Other Heart disease	39	40	79	2.13	2.41
21	Other circulatory disease	8	7	15	0.41	0.41
22	Influenza	1	...	1	0.03	0.19
23	Pneumonia	10	7	17	0.46	0.58
24	Bronchitis	10	6	16	0.43	0.30
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	4	2	6	0.16	0.14
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	1	5	0.13	0.11
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2	0.05	0.05
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	1	...	1	0.03	0.16
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	1	...	1	0.03	0.14
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	1	1	0.03	0.00
31	Congenital malformations	3	3	6	0.16	0.00
32	Other defined and ill defined diseases	23	26	49	1.32	1.43
33	Motor vehicle accidents	2	...	2	0.05	0.22
34	All other accidents	8	8	16	0.43	0.41
35	Suicide	2	...	2	0.05	0.11
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	0.00	0.03
	All causes	210	193	403	10.87	12.08

## DEATHS—ALL CAUSES—1952.

Age Group	Quarter ending 31/3/52		Quarter ending 30/6/52		Quarter ending 30/9/52		Quarter ending 31/12/52		Total for the year	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 1 month	2	...	1	...	3	3	...	3	6	6
1—2 months	2	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	5	.
2—3 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3—6 „	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
6—9 „	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
9—12 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Total to 1 year	4	...	2	...	5	3	2	3	13	6
1—4 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5—9 „	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
10—19 „	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
20—29 „	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	2	4	2
30—39 „	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	1
40—49 „	2	4	...	1	4	4	3	2	9	11
50—59 „	14	8	6	3	2	3	6	3	28	17
60—64 „	7	2	1	2	1	2	3	4	12	11
65—69 „	11	6	4	2	7	7	7	9	29	24
70—79 „	28	17	14	19	11	16	15	17	68	69
80—89 „	9	11	7	9	11	15	11	10	38	45
90 and over	...	3	4	1	...	2	2	1	6	7
Totals	76	51	43	38	42	53	49	51	210	193
	127		81		95		100		403	

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age: 1951—18=4.08 %  
1952—19=4.71 %

Deaths of persons aged 65 years and over: 1951—297=67.35 %  
1952—286=70.97 %



Details of the work carried out in connection with the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area (Environmental Hygiene), Water Supply, Drainage, Supervision of Food Supplies and the Public Cleansing Service will be found in the attached report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who, in conjunction with the Cleansing Officer, has reported separately on these matters, as in previous years.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

P. JACOB GAFFIKIN,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

Council Offices,

High Street,

West Malling,

Kent.

1st July, 1953.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Malling Rural District Council:**

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my fifth Annual Report on the sanitary circumstances existing in the rural district.

The year 1952 proved to be a busy one but it has been possible to pay attention to all aspects of sanitation and environmental hygiene within the district. All registered premises have been inspected regularly, food shops and cafés have received attention and foodstuffs sampled. Regular monthly samples are taken of milk and ice-cream on sale to the public.

Housing has once again taken up a major proportion of the Department's time but the effort made has been rewarded as will be seen from the table of sanitary works effected printed on page 25.

From a perusal of this report you will see that the work of the Public Health Department embraces many subjects and calls for the execution of tact by the Inspectors engaged on the outside work and it is pleasing to report that much has been done without the necessity to resort to legal proceedings.

A lot of time is taken up in interviewing persons who seek the assistance of the Department and sympathetic consideration is always given to their complaints and every effort made to put matters right.



## SECTION C

### WATER

The Mid-Kent Water Company provides a piped water supply to the major portion of the Malling Rural area. A small part of the parish of Aylesford and two cottages in the parish of Ditton are supplied from the Maidstone Water Company's mains. The Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Water Company supply four houses in the parish of Shipbourne from their mains. Private piped supplies are provided for the major part of Shipbourne parish and small parts of the parishes of Aylesford, Borough Green, Burham, Ightham, Platt, Plaxtol and West Peckham. Of the 10,194 inhabited dwellings according to the Rate Books at the end of 1952 (computed) approximately 97·87% are served by a piped supply of water. 259 new connections to the mains were made during the year.

It is difficult to give the exact number of houses supplied by stand pipes but it is estimated the figure is approximately one per cent. of the total number of houses having a piped supply.

Houses supplied by the:

Mid-Kent Water Company (Distribution in all parishes) ... ..	9710	
Maidstone Water Company ... ..	54	
Sevenoaks and Tonbridge Water Company	4	
	—	9768

Houses supplied by piped supply from spring sources in the parishes of:—

Aylesford ... ..	45	
Borough Green ... ..	8	
Burham ... ..	3	
Ightham ... ..	6	
West Peckham ... ..	18	
Platt ... ..	2	
Plaxtol ... ..	8	
Shipbourne ... ..	119	
	—	209
		—
		9977
		—

Samples: All supplies are subjected to sampling from time to time. The following table indicates the results of the year's sampling. In addition to the results shown the Maidstone and Mid-Kent Water Companies sample their supplies regularly and notify me of the results:—

Type of Water	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Examination		
	Number of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Number of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Raw Water	24	19	5	6	3	3
Treated Water	15	14	1	6	6	...

Action was taken on all 9 unsatisfactory samples. At Ightham arrangements were made for six cottages to be connected to the public main whilst at Basted the occupants of four cottages were advised to boil water pending works to a spring supply, and connection of these cottages to the main is also under consideration. At the Hamptons private supply in West Peckham repairs to the well-house to exclude birds resulted in further samples proving satisfactory. At East Peckham as a result of unsatisfactory samples a butcher's shop and adjoining cottage were connected to the mains supply; a well was cleaned out and a defective drain adjoining was repaired; whilst the use of a further well was discontinued. At Aylesford the chlorination of a private supply was adjusted resulting in repeat samples proving satisfactory. At Preston Hall a new chlorinator was provided to serve a part of the Hospital and twelve houses.

Ten cottages also previously relying on spring water were connected to the mains during the year, 8 in the parish of Snodland and 2 in the parish of Birling.

**Extension of Mains:** 544 yards of mains were laid during the year, details of which are set out in the following table:—

Parish	Yards	Size	Water Company
Burham	170	3 inches	Mid-Kent
Offham	374	3 "	"



**Delivery of Water:** 10,000 gallons of water were carried during 1952 to premises which, being dependent upon stored rain water were temporarily without a supply. Of the total amount of water delivered 3,200 gallons were to premises in the parish of Mereworth and 4,400 gallons to premises in the parish of West Peckham, covering the Swanton Valley—Peckham Hurst area. The remaining 2,400 gallons were delivered to two isolated cottages at Holly Hill in the parish of Birling.

**Rainfall:** The foilowing data concerning the year's rain-fall (with comparative figures for the four previous years) recorded at East Malling Research Station has been supplied by the Scientific Liaison Officer of that station:—

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Total amount of rain which fell during the year.	26.07 ins.	20.94 ins.	27.35 ins.	35.81 ins.	26.43 ins.
Number of days on which rain fell during the year.	150	132	184	194	183
Heaviest rainfall on any one day during the year.	1.67 ins. (14.6.48)	1.50 ins. (20.10.49)	1.36 ins. (25.4.50)	1.45 ins. (12.7.51)	1.13 ins. (22.11.52)
Longest wet period during the year.	8 days (23.1.48) to (30.1.48)	15 days (1.1.49) to (15.1.49)	17 days (30.1.50) to (15.2.50)	29 days (28.10.51) to (25.11.51)	22 days (9.12.52) to (31.12.52)
Longest dry period during the year.	23 days (22.2.48) to (15.3.48)	26 days (8.6.49) to (3.7.49)	11 days (3.3.50) to (13.3.50)	10 days (30.5.51) to (8.6.51)	14 days (13.5.52) to (26.5.52)

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No new sewerage schemes were constructed during the year under review although the main Ditton and Aylesford Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Scheme referred to in last year's report was submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government in outline form and awaits his approval or otherwise.

A new pump with rising main was provided to deal with the effluent of a small disposal plant taking the drainage from eight Council houses at Trottiscliffe.

The sewage disposal plant dealing with the drainage from fourteen Council houses at Shipbourne was enlarged so as to deal also with the drainage from four private houses adjoining and these were in fact connected to the system, which is functioning satisfactorily.

No additions or enlargements were carried out at the existing sewage disposal works during the year and the effluents at West Malling and Ditton are not satisfactory. The necessary enlargement to the Ditton works is included for in the new scheme now with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

An inspection and report on the West Malling works was prepared by your Consultant Engineers during December and they suggested alterations to the works so that a greater volume of the sewage flow dealt with, be diverted to the extension provided by the R.A.F., during the war. This necessitates alterations and renewal to the filter mechanism which it is hoped to undertake during 1953. This may improve the final effluent but it is not expected to be the complete answer due to the age of the original works, which has reached the obsolescent stage and it is not capable of producing a better effluent.

Routine dragging of sewers in Snodland and Ryarsh Lane, West Malling continued during the year and much deposited silt and other foreign matter was removed.

## **PUBLIC CLEANSING**

The following résumé of the work of the Cleansing Department during the year has been supplied by the Cleansing Officer, Mr. A. J. Weller.

By way of introduction to the main details of the work the following points stand out as worthy of special mention:—

1. The continued increase in the number of new houses erected has increased still further the amount of refuse to be collected and disposed of. With the Council's housing programme gathering momentum it is apparent that some increase in the number of refuse collectors will soon become necessary.
2. The disposal of cesspool contents still presents a real problem. There has been an increased demand on the Service and it has been necessary to travel longer distances to disposal points. Despite the fact that two additional men were engaged during the year, it has been possible to cope with the situation only by increasing the amount of overtime worked.



3. The ancillary work carried out by the Department also increased during the year. This work embraces the care and maintenance of Mortuaries, carriage of water to premises dependent on stored rain water, and other jobs, such as the removal of the furniture of evicted Council tenants, polling booths to Polling Stations, etc. In addition, the painting and repairing of the Council's vehicles, painting and maintenance of pumping stations and sewage disposal plants all receive attention by the Council's workmen.

### Manpower.

The outside staff of the Council now numbers 45, as follows:—

- 1 Foreman.
- 1 Fitter.
- 1 Rodent Control.
- 2 Maintenance.
- 12 Refuse Collection.
- 2 Refuse Disposal.
- 2 Disposal Plants, Grass Cutting and Sludge Removal.
- 12 Cesspool Emptying and Night Soil.
- 10 Sewers and Sewage Disposal.
- 2 Salvage (Women).

Difficulties were experienced during the year due to sickness and the shortage of men. At the end of January there were three vacancies, and it was not until the end of June that these were filled.

The total time lost through sickness during the year was 122 days.

With regard to the retention of men, the position now appears to be easier, for whereas in the previous year 19 men left and 19 replacements were engaged, during this year one man died, 6 men left and 9 were engaged, the two extra men being those allowed by the Council for cesspool emptying. However, it is not always possible to get the right type of man for this work.

### Refuse Collection.

In accordance with the normal practice, the majority of bins were placed out by householders near to the highway for collection. Exceptions to this method are made in the case of old or infirm people. It is becoming increasingly difficult to satisfy people that the Council's service requires bins to be placed out for collection.

With regard to the actual work of collection, the fortnightly round is particularly troublesome, as more and more residents are increasing the number of bins to two, three



and sometimes four, in order to accommodate all their waste matter until the day of collection. Some bins are not only heavy, but particularly offensive, especially in hot weather. The organic content is very attractive to flies and fresh refuse arrives at the tip already affected by these pests.

During the last four years, 642 new houses have been erected, together with 154 at the Married Quarters at the R.A.F. Station at West Malling, giving an increase of 796 properties requiring the collection service.

The increase in the amount of refuse collected during this period is 1,045 tons. No extra men have been engaged to deal with this increase, and it is obvious that, although larger and more efficient vehicles may be used to convey the material with a consequent cutting down in the number of journeys to the tip, it will soon become necessary to increase the number of men to handle this extra quantity of refuse.

One such larger vehicle of the compressing type, a Dennis "Paxit," was brought into service in May and is proving very satisfactory.

The total tonnage of all materials handled during the year, 11,311½ tons, shows an increase of 197 tons over the previous year.

**Salvage.**

The year 1952 saw a recession of business in the paper trade. Prices maintained a downward trend throughout the year and the quantity of Wastepaper, etc., accepted by the trade was fixed, in our case, at 9 tons per month.

Prices of Ferrous Metals have remained static, but those of Rags, Wcollens and Bottles have dropped.

In spite of this, however, a larger tonnage was disposed of than in the previous year, but the receipts were lower at £1,794. 2s. 6d.

The following table will give a comparison between 1951 and 1952.

	1951						1952					
	Weight T. C. Q.			Value £. s. d.			Weight T. C. Q.			Value £. s. d.		
Wastepaper, etc.	141	5	3	2,184	19	3	134	18	3	1,410	12	9
Metal, R a g s, Wcollens, etc.	8	15	3	227	16	6	36	1	0	356	14	0
Cullett ... ..	—			—			3	13	0	3	13	0
Bottles ... ..	—			—			(574 doz.)			23	2	9
	150	1	2	2,412	15	9	174	12	3	1,794	2	6

From the £1,794. 2s. 6d. received from the sale of Salvage, the sum of £878. 7s. 4d. was expended in Wages of Sorters, Bonus to the men and incidental expenses, such as Sisal Cord for Baling, etc., giving an excess of income over expenditure of £915. 15s. 2d.

The following table gives comparative figures of tonnages carried by the Refuse lorries over the last four years.

Year	Refuse	Hardcore & Covering	Drainage	Salvage	Misc.	Total
1949	6354	1378	331	*675½		9338½
1950	7925½	1790½	530	† 17½	273	10536
1951	7607	1924½	627½	150	§ 805	11114½
1952	7999	1868½	523	175½	745½	11311½

\* This figure includes Miscellaneous work in addition to Salvage.

† 27th November to 31st December only.

§ Extra lorry employed on grass cutting, maintenance of housing site disposal plants, etc.

## Refuse Disposal.

All refuse, which is deposited at the Ham Hill, Brookland tip, is disposed of by controlled tipping.

A request was received during the year to fill in an old stone pit at Leybourne. This pit took 22 weeks to fill, and by filling it has increased the size of a field used for grazing cattle. Approximately 4,000 tons of refuse and top soil were used to complete this work.

The use of the Muledozer purchased last year, makes an appreciable difference both in the appearance of the tip and in the cost of maintaining it. Tipping can be done at two levels at 6ft. depths, and the better consolidation thus achieved has almost cleared the tip of rats. No crickets have been seen since the use of sleepers and running boards was discontinued.

## Cesspool Emptying.

The demand for the use of the Cesspool Emptiers continues to increase, 166 premises requested attention for the first time during the year—118 in parishes receiving a four-monthly service and 48 in parishes receiving a six-weekly service—and some of the older cesspools are filling up much more quickly.



During the year, 12,675 loads were removed. This is 867 loads more than in the previous year, and represents a total amount of 10,140,000 gallons of sewage to be disposed of without offence. This is a pointer to the need for new sewers.

The work of disposing of cesspool contents has been improved by the addition of a permanent tip at Comp Woods. The other two permanent tips are at Crouch and Addington Park.

Temporary tips are used as much as possible to reduce haulage distances but are available for strictly limited periods. When these are not available additional distances of up to 400 miles a week are sometimes covered with a consequent reduction in the number of emptyings that it is possible to undertake.

A new Emptyer was purchased in July and an old machine, 14 years old, was sold.

Comparative figures for the last three years are given below.

Year	Loads Removed				
	Cesspools	Flushing	Sludge, etc.	Pails	Total
1950	10578	480	135	156 [23514 pls.]	11349
1951	11084	211	345	168 [25295 pls.]	11808
1952	11705	396	397	177 [26528 pls.]	12675

## Garages, Vehicles and Maintenance.

The Council's fleet of vehicles numbers 16.

The Muledozer is garaged at Snodland, near to the tip, and the remainder of the vehicles are garaged at East Malling. These consist of 1 "Paxit" Compressing Refuse Collector, 3 Barrier Loaders, 2 Side Loaders, one 2 ton truck, 2 vans and 6 Cesspool Emptyers.

When the "Paxit" Refuse Collector was put into service in May an old Side Loader, 11 years old, was sold.

The use of this larger machine has reduced the number of journeys to the tip, and it is hoped to put more of these machines into use as the smaller vehicles are replaced.

All repairs are carried out at the depôt by your fitter, extra equipment being purchased from time to time to facilitate maintenance. A Vulcaniser was purchased during the year and this has proved to be very useful.

A considerable saving in the purchase of new tyres has been effected by the retreading of worn ones, and the new method of "Wiresoling" is a great improvement on the ordinary method, adding several thousand miles to the life



of a tyre. It has been found by experience that retreaded tyres last as long as, and sometimes longer than, new ones.

The following statement sets out the saving effected during the year by the retreading of tyres.

Size	Quantity	New Tyre Cost	Wiresole or Tyresole Cost	Saving
34 x 7	7	£141 10 4	£58 16 0	£82 14 4
27 x 6	11 (W/S)		£73 3 0	
27 x 6	5 (T/S)	£177 17 4	£28 5 0	£76 9 4
	23	£319 7 8	£160 4 0	£159 3 8

To facilitate the drying of the men's wet clothes, a tubular heater has been installed in their rest room at the Dépôt.

### Disposal Plants and Ejector Units.

One new disposal plant and pump unit at a housing site was put into service in October, making a total of 14 disposal plants, 2 pump units and 3 ejector units which require attention.

Routine inspection, cleansing and minor adjustments have kept them free from serious trouble, which the exception of the plant at Trottiscliffe.

Here, in addition to the pump being overloaded, the rising main became choked and frozen early in the year, and, after clearance, continued to give trouble until November, when a new pump and a larger rising main were installed. No further trouble has been experienced.

Some minor repairs have been necessary to the disposal plant at the old Council houses at Hollow Lane, Birling.

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

During the year 7,110 inspections were carried out in connection with the work of the Department comprised as follows:—

### FOOD PREMISES.

Number of visits to	Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
"	"	"	"	Bakehouses	...	...	...	41
"	"	"	"	Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	94
"	"	"	"	Grocers' Shops	...	...	...	46
"	"	"	"	Fishmongers' Shops	...	...	...	26
"	"	"	"	Cafés	...	...	...	51
"	"	"	"	Works Canteens	...	...	...	16
"	"	"	"	Public Houses	...	...	...	174
"	"	"	"	Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	2

Number of visits to Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	48
„ „ „ „ Piggeries	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ „ „ Milk “Distributors”	...	...	...	...	71
„ „ „ „ Premises <i>re</i> application for registration of premises for the sale of ice-cream					20
„ „ Samples of Milk collected	...	...	...	...	92
„ „ „ „ Ice-cream collected	...	...	...	...	81
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE AND MISCELLANEOUS</b>					
Number of visits to Shops other than food premises	...	...			3
„ „ „ „ Factories	...	...	...	...	136
„ „ „ „ Outworkers	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ „ „ Aged Persons	...	...	...	...	14
„ „ „ „ Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	4
„ „ „ „ Premises <i>re</i> rat and/or mice infestations					1663
„ „ Premises fumigated for pests and/or vermin (other than rats and mice)	...	...	...	...	23
„ „ Disinfections carried out after Infectious and Notifiable Diseases	...	...	...	...	31
„ „ Visits to premises <i>re</i> Notifiable and Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	53
„ „ Inspections of Refuse Accumulations and/or Manure Heaps	...	...	...	...	24
„ „ Inspections carried out under Housing and/or Public Health Acts—First visits	...				894
				Revisits...	781
„ „ visits to meet owners/agents	...	...	...	...	36
„ „ „ „ „ Builders	...	...	...	...	52
„ „ Housing Inspections in connection with rehousing					558
„ „ Huts/Hutted camps inspected (Emergency Housing)	...	...	...	...	426
„ „ visits to sewage disposal outfall works, pumping stations and small group disposal works	...	...	...	...	210
„ „ special investigations <i>re</i> proposed schemes for sewerage	...	...	...	...	31
„ „ Cesspools and/or septic tank installations inspected	...	...	...	...	102
„ „ Drains inspected and/or tested	...	...	...	...	160
„ „ Inspections of sewers	...	...	...	...	208
„ „ Rivers, streams, ditches, ponds and/or water courses, etc., inspected	...	...			13
„ „ visits to Swimming Baths	...	...	...	...	17
„ „ Samples of Swimming Bath water collected	...				21
„ „ „ „ drinking water collected	...	...			51
„ „ visits to Places of Public Assembly	...	...	...		36
„ „ „ „ Hop Pickers' Camps	...	...	...		68
„ „ Inspections of sites <i>re</i> moveable dwellings	...	...			64
„ „ „ „ moveable dwellings	...	...	...		51
„ „ visits to premises <i>re</i> storage of petroleum spirit					100
„ „ „ „ „ „ flooding	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ „ „ „ „ Land Charges	...	...	...		9
„ „ Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	466



The following table sets out the sanitary works effected to existing premises during the year under review:—

Additional W.C.'s installed...	106	Coppers repaired ... ..	10
„ flushing cisterns installed ... ..	106	Coppers demolished ... ..	1
Additional baths installed ...	35	Fire grates repaired/renewed ... ..	27
„ lavatory basins installed ... ..	91	Yard paving repaired/renewed ... ..	5
Additional sinks installed ...	15	Rain water guttering repaired/renewed ... ..	35
„ urinals installed ...	8	Water stop cock repaired ...	1
„ gullies installed...	80	Water supply installed ...	3
„ interceptor traps installed ... ..	14	Water service pipe installed ...	3
Additional inspection chambers installed ... ..	79	Dustbins supplied ... ..	71
Additional water heaters installed ... ..	14	Floors repaired/renewed ...	28
Premises limewashed ...	7	Ceiling plaster repaired/renewed ... ..	29
Baths renewed ... ..	2	Chimney stacks repaired/rebuilt ... ..	31
Choked drains cleansed ...	47	Staircases repaired ... ..	2
Chimney pots fixed ... ..	11	W/C compartments repaired/reconstructed ...	24
Cesspools provided ... ..	20	Dampness remedied ... ..	18
Manhole covers renewed ...	24	Well filled in ... ..	1
Drains laid/altered/repai red 173		Cover for well provided ...	1
Drain ventilation shafts repaired/renewed ... ..	11	Larder provided ... ..	1
Drain ventilation shafts provided ... ..	29	Hot water tank repaired ...	1
Pail or earth closets converted to W.C.'s ... ..	16	Coke bunker renewed ... ..	1
Elsan closets provided ...	2	Table top renewed ... ..	1
Sub-soil irrigation provided to drainage systems ...	6	Shop front repaired ... ..	1
Dip-pipes provided to cesspools ... ..	7	Accumulations of refuse/manure removed ... ..	1
Rcofs repaired ... ..	74	Dirty premises cleansed ...	5
Sinks renewed ... ..	5	Names and addresses painted on milk vans ...	4
Sink waste pipes repaired/renewed ... ..	17	Concrete floors provided to Hopper Huts in lieu of earth ... ..	114
Sink pillars renewed ... ..	1	New Hopper Huts constructed ... ..	20
W.C. pans renewed ... ..	19	Roof of Hopper Huts repaired ... ..	12
W.C. flushing cisterns repaired/renewed ... ..	14	Out houses demolished ...	3
W.C. seats renewed ... ..	17	Dwellings demolished in accordance with an informal "Undertaking" ...	4
External walls repointed/repaired ... ..	19	Dwellings demolished in accordance with "Demolition Order" ... ..	4
Doors and windows repaired/renewed ... ..	99	Number of Formal Notices served during 1952 ...	25
Door steps renewed ... ..	2	Number of Informal Notices served during 1952 ...	157
Cooking ranges repaired/renewed ... ..	19	Number of complaints received during 1952 ...	364
Wall Plaster repaired/renewed ... ..	35		
Gullies renewed ... ..	4		
Inspection chambers reconstructed ... ..	14		
Interceptor traps renewed ...	1		



## FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

The following table shows the number of inspections of factories carried out and the details of defects found:—

### 1. Inspections.

Premises	Number on register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Owners Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	9	3	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	133	121	9	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority* (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	12	2	—
<b>TOTALS ... ..</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>

\* Electrical Stations, Institutions, and works of engineering construction and sites of building operations.

### 2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ... ..	1	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	15	13	—	9	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home Work) ... ..	6	6	2	1	—
<b>TOTALS ... ..</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>—</b>

**Outworkers:** There is one outworker in the district who is engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

**Shops Acts.** As in previous years opportunity was taken to deal with the administration of the Shops Acts whilst visiting shops for other purposes, e.g., food inspection, sampling of ice-cream, milk, etc.

Observations were made after closing time in most parishes and no infringements were noted. The larger shops generally close before the terminal hour and the number of shops availing themselves of the late closing hours are small; usually the owner-operated village stores. Observations were also made on a Sunday to ascertain compliance with the Sunday Trading Act.

In one village it was necessary to issue warnings to five shops either in connection with Sunday Trading or the Half-day Early Closing. No further infringement of the Act was noticed after these warnings.

**Swimming Baths and Pools.** The two privately owned swimming pools in the rural district continued in use and were open to the public during the year. Both pools were kept under supervision again and samples of the water were taken and submitted to the County Laboratories for bacteriological and chemical examination (six chemical and 15 bacteriological).

As a result of the samples taken it was found that in one of the baths insufficient chlorine was being added to the water, whilst in the other, chlorine was added at irregular intervals and proper use was not made of the filtration plant. The proprietors were interviewed and the position explained. Further samples proved satisfactory.

**Eradication of Pests** (other than Rats and Mice). As in previous years efforts have been made to help persons seeking the aid of the department in connection with bug, flea and fly infestations. This work is carried out as required by the Rodent Operator, using a liquid insecticide containing residual D.D.T., or D.D.T. smoke generators. Such treatment proved satisfactory. 23 premises were treated during the year.

**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.** Baiting and poisoning of surface and sewer infestations of rats and mice, in the manner recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was carried out during the year, and again gave very satisfactory results.

The following two tables summarise rats and mice disinfestation treatments, both as regards surface and sewers:—

### SURFACE.

	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (inc. Business Premises)	Total
Total number of Properties in Local Authority's area.	17	8656	1073	1044	10793
Number of Properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey or otherwise.	(a) —	137	—	27	164
	(b) 17	388	1	202	608
Number of Properties inspected which were found to be infested by rats.	Major 2	6	—	3	11
	Minor 15	147	1	16	179
Number of Properties inspected which were found to be infested by mice.	—	19	—	4	23
Number of infested Properties treated by Local Authority.	Rats 17	153	—	19	189
	Mice —	19	—	4	23
Number of "block" control schemes carried out.	19. Involving 72 dwelling houses and 9 associated sewer manholes.				



## SEWERS.

Section	Number of Manholes	Number Pre-baited		Number of Pre-bait takes		Number poison baited		Number of poison bait takes	
		Jan.	July	Jan.	July	Jan.	July	Jan.	July
Aylesford (inc. Burham and Eccles)	132	13	Not treated	—	Not treated	—	Not treated	—	Not treated
East Malling	80	11		—		—		—	
Ditton	80	6		—		—		—	
Borough Green	65	7		—		—		—	
Platt	45	3		—		—		—	
Plaxtol	36	4	Not treated	—	Not treated	—	Not treated	—	Not treated
Wrotham	30	4		—		—		—	
West Malling	98	15		5	3	5	3	5	3
Snodland	87	81	77	51	14	66	20	41	16
Totals	653	144	81	56	17	71	23	46	19

## SECTION D

**Housing.** Housing, once again, formed a large part of the Department's work for the year. In this connection 354 new inspections were made and 781 revists were made following up repair work required. All complaints of dis-repair received are followed up and notices served where necessary but it is still very difficult to maintain the small rural cottages in a fit state due to the low rents received, especially as works required under the Housing Act must be deemed to be reasonable expense. In some cases minor repairs only swallow up the rent for a year and oftentimes more.

Despite the difficulties encountered every effort is made to bring about compliance with all notices served even if it means resort to legal proceedings. However, much is done in this respect by informal action and it was necessary to institute legal proceedings in one case only during the year. In this case the Magistrates granted an Abatement Order under the Public Health Act, 1936, and the work required to the cottage in question was duly completed.

The time is not yet ripe for a concentrated slum clearance programme but as tenants of demolition category cottages are rehoused these cottages are dealt with to prevent further occupation. Eight such cottages were demolished

during the year, four as a result of formal action under Section 11 of the Housing Act and four as a result of informal action.

It is disappointing to record that no applications were received during the year for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949. I consider this to be due to the two main requirements for a property, viz., that it should be in good structural repair and have an expectation of life of 30 years.

**Hutted Camps.** Five hutted camps were in use throughout the year housing a total of 100 families. It is becoming very difficult to maintain these huts in a reasonable state of repair and even more difficult to justify their use as habitations, although owing to the acute housing shortage some of the huts must continue to be used for a few more years yet. Acting on the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's instructions the five huts comprising Forstal Road, Aylesford, camp were demolished and a start made on the Court Lodge, Aylesford, site, where one hut was demolished and one taken out of use as a dwelling and converted to a store. Demolition of the huts on the Court Lodge site will continue as they become vacant.

Number of new dwellings erected during the year:—

(a) By the Local Authority (Permanent)			
(i) Prefabricated types ...	<i>Nil</i>		
(ii) Traditional types ...	140		
	—		140
(b) By others ...	...	...	25
			—
			165
			—

**Rural Housing Survey.** 540 houses were inspected and recorded during the year. The Officer engaged in this work also makes the necessary enquiries for the selection of tenants for new Council cottages which duty takes up the major portion of his time, thus restricting the number of properties inspected for the Rural Housing Survey.

A total of 2,805 houses has now been inspected and recorded, involving the parishes of Aylesford, Birling, Borough Green, Burham, Ditton, East Malling, Ightham, Plaxtol, Shipbourne, Snodland and Wouldham, the details of which are as set out below. The survey continues in the parish of Wrotham.

Category.	No.	% to total surveyed
1. Satisfactory in all respects ...	241	8.59
2. Minor defects ...	2131	75.97
3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement ...	289	10.30
4. Appropriate for reconditioning	—	—
5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost ...	144	5.14



The following table records details of amenities existing at premises inspected:—

		During 1952	Inclusive total at end of 1952
Number of houses inspected		540	2805
Sink		515	2696
Washing Accommodation		390	2411
Bath		227	393
Cooking Facilities	* Ranges	256	2178
	Electricity	93	190
	Gas	188	418
	Oil	3	19
Food Storage	Ventilated	280	556
	Unventilated	260	2249
Water Supply	Main	533	2773
	Well or Spring (individual)	7	7
	Rain Water Storage	—	25
	Piped Indoors	522	2630
Drainage	Sewer	241	1882
	Cesspool	239	825
	None	60	98
Closet Accommodation	W.C. Indoors	216	376
	W.C. Outdoors	255	2095
	Pail Closet Outdoors	59	315
	Privy Midden	6	9
	Chemical Closet	4	10

\* It should be noted that approximately 65% of this number have other means of cooking either by electricity or gas in addition to ranges.

## SECTION E

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

#### FOOD PREMISES.

**Cafés and Canteens.** Sixty-seven inspections of cafés and large works canteens were made during the year, particular attention being paid to premises on the trunk road A.20. Conditions under which food is stored and cleanliness of food handlers were noted. Where chipped and cracked crockery was found, the Managements renewed same on request.

At each visit opportunity is taken to remind Managements of the requirements of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the Mallang R.D.C., Food Byelaws, 1950. I find that this informal education of food handlers does much to improve food hygiene. Informal action was necessary in a number of cases which resulted in improvement to the standard of premises and thus to food served to the public.

**Bakehouses.** There are now 15 bakehouses in use in the district and 41 inspections were carried out during the year. The following table shows the various improvements effected:—

Floors repaired .....	1	Accumulations or extraneous	
Walls repaired and whitened	3	articles removed .....	2
Ceilings repaired and/or whitened .....	6	Windows cleaned and wood- work painted .....	1
Wash-hand basins provided	2	Doors cleaned and woodwork painted .....	1
Notices provided requesting employees to wash hands after using toilet .....	6	Coke bunkers built .....	3
Clean coats and aprons pro- vided .....	2	Roofs repaired .....	1
W.C. pans renewed .....	1	Sinks provided .....	1
Cupboards cleaned .....	1	W.C.'s, cleaned .....	1
		Food storage improved .....	1

**Butchers' Shops.** 94 visits of inspection were made to butchers' shops during the year. Effort was mainly directed to completing repairs and improvements commenced in 1951.

**Grocers' Shops.** 46 inspections were made in connection with the sale of "sterilised" milk, ice-cream and inspection of foodstuffs. Two premises were registered for the cooking of ham.



**Fish Shops.** There are now 10 shops selling wet and fried fish. Twenty-six inspections were made for cleanliness and state of repair, etc. One fish and chip preparation room was reconstructed during the year. Three inspections were made of mobile fish and chip canteens operating within the district.

**Public Houses.** 174 visits were made to public houses. Sanitary accommodation was enlarged or improved at 10 premises; glass washing facilities, i.e., provision of hot water heaters and sinks, were provided at 12 premises and repairs were carried out to six cellars.

**MILK.**

**Food and Drugs Acts, 1938-1950.**

**Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.**

Whilst milk production is the concern of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the distribution of milk is under the supervision of the local authority. In this connection there are 13 dairies registered in the rural area and 44 persons are registered as “distributors” of milk within the district. The standard of the dairies is considered to be satisfactory and in all but two of the premises refrigerated cold stores are available for milk storage. Thirty-three routine inspections of dairy premises were carried out during the year.

**Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

**Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.**

The undermentioned licences to use special designations were granted during the year:—

	Tuberculin Tested	Pasteurised	Sterilised
Dealers' Licences	13	11	19
Supplementary Licences	7	7	1
Totals	20	18	20

In the case of the dealers' licences only two "distributors" bottle designated milk at their dairies in this district. In both cases "Tuberculin Tested" milk from a licensed producer is bottled and capped in accordance with the Regulations. In all other cases designated milk is obtained and sold in the sealed bottles in which it is delivered from approved sources.

A satisfactory standard was maintained with regard to designated milk as will be seen from the following record of samples taken:—

Grade	Number of samples taken	Number which satisfied the prescribed test	Number which did not satisfy the prescribed test
Tuberculin Tested	25	19	6
Tuberculin Tested [Pasteurised]	7	7	—
Pasteurised	23	23	—
Sterilised	18	18	—

In the case of the six unsatisfactory samples the dairies concerned were inspected and repeat samples taken which proved to be satisfactory.

In cases where bovine cattle are sent in from this district for slaughter, and found on post-mortem examination to be affected with tuberculosis, samples of the milk supply from the remainder of the cattle in the herd are submitted for examination for the presence of tuberculosis. In addition, during 1952 routine samples of mixed milk from herds supplying non-designated milk to be sold raw in the district have also been submitted for examination. In this connection 19 such samples in all were submitted during the year, one of which proved positive. This was from a farm producing approximately 50 gallons of milk per day. Only six gallons were being sold raw and this was required to be pasteurised. The farmer co-operated with this department and only informal action was necessary. Subsequent action by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries found one animal in the herd to be affected with tuberculosis. This animal was removed for slaughter and further samples of the mixed milk from the whole herd proved negative.

**Meat and Other Foods.** The meat supply for the rural district comes from the centralised slaughter-houses of the



adjacent urban areas. Four private slaughter-houses are licensed in this area in connection with the Self-Suppliers of Pigs Scheme, and 54 pigs killed in this way were inspected during the year and passed as fit for human consumption.

Inspections of food at various retail food premises in the area are carried out from time to time and in this connection the following quantity of foodstuffs was surrendered as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

Article.	Weight			
	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Tinned and bottled fruits ... ..	3	0	10	9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Tinned soups ... ..			5	13
Tinned vegetables ... ..		3	13	6
Tinned fish ... ..			6	0
Wet fish ... ..	2	2	21	0
Tinned meats ... ..	3	2	14	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Butchers' meat ... ..	1	3	13	8
Bacon ... ..		1	1	3
Jams ... ..			16	8
Meat paste ... ..				5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Fish paste ... ..				10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Icing mixtures ... ..			3	2
Pickles ... ..			15	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Table jellies ... ..				14
<hr/>				
Total ...	12	3	10	11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
<hr/>				

In addition to the weights shown above the equivalent of 15<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> pints of condensed and evaporated milk was also surrendered as unfit.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Malling Rural District during the year ended 31st December, 1952, and submitted to the Public Analyst, have been kindly furnished by the Chief Inspector (Mr. S. Strugnell) of the Weights and Measures Department of the Kent County Council, who are the

responsible authority for this purpose in this district:—

Article	No.	Article	No.
Batter flour ... ..	1	Brought forward ...	32
Beans in tomato sauce ...	1	Lemon cheese ... ..	1
Biscuits ... ..	1	Lysantol pastilles ... ..	1
Boracic acid powder ... ..	1	Milk ... ..	39
Butter ... ..	2	Mincemeat ... ..	1
Butter mints (flavoured) ...	1	Oatmeal ... ..	2
Castor oil ... ..	1	Ointment of zinc oxide ...	1
Cocoa ... ..	1	Pinhead oatmeal ... ..	1
Coffee and chicory essence	1	Process cheese ... ..	1
Crystallised ginger ... ..	1	Pure olive oil ... ..	2
Cyder ... ..	1	Rum ... ..	1
Demerara sugar ... ..	1	Salmon spread ... ..	1
Dessicated coconut ... ..	1	Sauce ... ..	1
Diabetic marmalade ... ..	1	Sore throat lozenges ...	1
Eucalyptus oil ... ..	1	Spaghetti in tomato sauce	
Festival relish ... ..	1	with cheese ... ..	1
Gin ... ..	2	Spray skim milk powder ...	7
Glace cherries ... ..	1	Strawberry jam ... ..	1
Glauber salts ... ..	1	Synthetic cream powder ...	1
Glycerine ... ..	1	Tapioca ... ..	1
Gravy powder ... ..	2	Tapioca wafer flake ... ..	1
Ground African ginger ...	1	Tea ... ..	1
Ground Cinnamon ... ..	1	Tea time tablets ... ..	1
Horseradish relish ... ..	1	Tomato relish ... ..	1
Ice-cream ... ..	1	Tomato soup ... ..	1
Icing sugar ... ..	1	Whisky ... ..	2
Lard ... ..	3	Yeastvite ... ..	1
Carried forward ...	32	Total ...	104

**Summary:** Milks, 39. Drugs, 12. Spirits, 5. Other samples, 48.

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:—

Sample of	Analysis.	Action taken.
Ice-cream.	Inferior. Deficient in milk, otherwise good.	Reported to Health Dept., Borough of Gravesend.
Milk.	Inferior. 8.3% deficient in fat.	Further sample satisfactory.
Milk.	Inferior. 5% deficient in fat.	Producer advised.
Channel I. Milk.	13.75% deficient in fat. Adulterated.	Steps taken to improve quality. Further sample genuine.
Tea time tablets.	Inferior. Ingredients stated in wrong order.	Manufacturers notified.
Tomato relish.	Contained Mango: not permitted.	Manufacturers notified. Article not now produced.



**Ice-cream.** There are no manufacturers of ice-cream in the district. 94 premises are registered for the storage and sale, all of whom are selling ice-cream from approved sources. 81 samples were taken during the year, the results of which were as follows:—

Grade I—59; Grade II—14; Grade III—6; Grade IV—2.

The 81 samples taken embraced 15 different brands of ice-cream.

In all cases where a Grade III or IV result was obtained, further inspection was carried out at the premises to check conditions, and repeat samples then collected which in each case proved to be satisfactory.

**Hop and Fruit Pickers' Camps.** Thirty-two hop pickers' camps were occupied during the season, housing an estimated 8,500 pickers. Sixty-eight visits of inspection were made to check on living and sanitary conditions. The Inspecting Medical Officer from the Ministry of Health visited the district just prior to hop picking and inspected seven camps finding them satisfactory. An eve of picking letter was sent to all growers seeking their co-operation in improving conditions wherever possible, whilst in between the seasons every opportunity is taken to encourage growers to improve the huts. I find the growers generally co-operative and during the year under review 114 concrete floors were provided in lieu of earth, 12 roofs were repaired, 14 huts were reconditioned and 20 new concrete block huts provided. 14 unsatisfactory huts were demolished. Only one case of infectious disease occurred in the hop camps, a child with measles, who was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

**Camping Sites.** (Public Health Act, 1936—Section 269) (Moveable Dwellings).

The following gives particulars of licences dealt with during the year:—

(a) Number of applications received during 1952 for licences to use land as sites for moveable dwellings ... ..					21
Number of licences granted ... ..					15
(b) Number of applications received during 1952 for licences to station and use moveable dwellings on sites in (a) ... ..					41
Number of licences granted ... ..					35

The appeals against the Council's decision to refuse licences to station and use moveable dwellings in the Kits Coty Estate, Blue Bell Hill, because of danger to sub-soil waters serving a public water supply, were heard by the Court of Summary Jurisdiction during the year and the decision of the Council upheld. As a result the moveable dwellings stationed in this Estate and covered by the Public Health Act were all removed.

Representations made to the owners of the Chalk Pit at Wrotham Hill resulted in the pit being fenced. Thus the use of this pit by itinerant caravan dwellers has been stopped and the nuisance from the total absence of sanitary requirements there, removed.

The six licences refused referred to applications from individual persons to use caravans as dwellings and were refused because the sites did not comply with the Public Health Act.

The figures relating to licences granted during the year does not represent a true picture of the number of caravans in the district and it has not been possible to check on every moveable dwelling known to the department.

To conclude this report I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the Council for its support and backing during the year. I record also my thanks to the staff for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I am,

Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. COLDRICK,  
Senior Sanitary Inspector.



Parish.	Number of Houses according to Rate Books — December 1952 (computed).			Area (acres)	Population (estimated)
Addington ... ..	153			1119	543
Aylesford ... ..	1237			4013	4863
Birling ... ..	240			1801	833
Borough Green ... ..	519			480	1755
Burham ... ..	510			1632	1762
Ditton ... ..	536			1066	1757
Ightham ... ..	452			2278	1675
Leybourne ... ..	159			755	791
East Malling ... ..	946			2787	3391
West Malling ... ..	739			1379	2343
Mereworth ... ..	197			2556	804
Offham ... ..	200			1479	754
East Peckham ... ..	608			3337	2313
West Peckham ... ..	97			1582	337
Platt ... ..	328			1827	1302
Plaxtol ... ..	328			2406	1120
Ryarsh ... ..	238			1375	881
Shipbourne ... ..	135			2007	460
Snodland ... ..	1217			1958	4532
Stansted ... ..	160			1974	596
Trottiscliffe ... ..	141			1155	483
Wateringbury ... ..	367			1377	1368
Wouldham ... ..	249			1855	831
Wrotham ... ..	433			3457	1576
Totals ... ..	10,194			45655	37070

